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Earth Hour

Before you turn your lights off this Saturday at 8:30 p.m. to mark Earth Hour, Metro has some environmental stories to get you thinking "green."

Comment & Views
- **Word on the street, pg 6**

Metro Drive
- **Canadian auto parts giant**

Magna is eyeing the green market with eco-friendly electric vehicle concept, pg 10

Tomorrow
- **Musicians are planning tours that promote conservation and packaging their materials with recycled materials.**

Riding the Recession

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Canada
- **We look at parties where you not only get to see friends, but leave with a few pieces of clothing — at no cost, pg 4**

Tomorrow
- **We introduce you to a few meals for a steal.**

Friday
- **Our series concludes with an update on how the economy is doing.**

ISU **Dance!**

LUCY NICHOLSON/REUTERS

Vanessa Crone and Paul Poirier, Canada's national silver medallists for 2009, perform yesterday during the Compulsory Dance portion of the 2009 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Los Angeles, Calif. Poirier, who was born in Ottawa, and Crone train out of Scarborough, near Toronto.

Nine lauded for visual, media arts

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Forty years ago, Nobuo Kubota made a decision that changed his life.

Already an architect for 10 years, the Vancouver native decided to dedicate himself to art and music instead.

He told his parents.

"They weren't pleased," he said.

His mom asked him why he couldn't be more like Raymond Moriyama, a fellow architect and Vancouver native who is also the son of a longtime family friend.

Yesterday, the men had more in common than Kubota's mom could ever have imagined as both were among the nine laureates of the 2009 Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts honoured at the National Gallery of Canada.

"I told (Moriyama) the story yesterday," said Kubota, a 77-year-old Toronto resident. "And we had a good laugh about it."

Looking back on the past 40 years, Kubota said he "could think of no better way to spend my life."

Other award recipients include sculpture artist John Greer, interdisciplinary artist Rita McKeough, filmmaker Robert Morin, painter Gordon Smith, glass sculptor Kevin Lockau, as well as Tony Urquhart and Kim Ondaatje, who will share the outstanding contribution award for their work in establishing CARFAC, the Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens.

Nobuo Kubota

A Toronto architect responsible for the Canadian War Museum, the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto and the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Moriyama has won hundreds of awards, but called the Governor General's award "an honour."

The Canada Council for the Arts-funded awards recognize career achievements in and outstanding contributions to the visual and media arts. Governor General Michaëlle Jean will present the awards at a ceremony at Rideau Hall tonight.

"Each of this year's winners has had a significant impact on the Canadian arts scene," said Canada Council chair Joseph Rotman.

An exhibit featuring some of the artists' works opens Friday.

McGuinty in 'high-level' talks for tax merge

ECONOMY Premier Dalton McGuinty has given the clearest signal yet Ontario plans to move forward with the controversial blending of the eight per cent provincial sales tax with the five per cent GST, even though it would hit consumers in the wallet.

McGuinty confirmed he is having "high-level discussions" with Ottawa on harmonizing the two taxes, and promised more details in tomorrow's budget.

The premier noted federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is pressing the change, which would reduce business costs but force Ontarians to pay higher taxes on items now exempt from the PST. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Ottawa 130 Slater Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2. Publisher: Bill McDonald

Microchip spares tears for lost pets
The Ottawa Humane Society is encouraging everyone with a dog or cat to attend its microchip clinic Sunday. Each spring, the humane society sees an increase in the number of lost pets. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Carleton grad picked for space

Carleton alumnus Matt Bamsey has been chosen as one of 16 candidates by the Canadian Space Agency for its National Astronaut Recruitments Campaign. Bamsey was selected from a pool of 5,300 people and spent the last several months undergoing extensive medical, physical and skills tests to find out whether or not he will join Canada's astronaut corps in May. Bamsey graduated from Carleton in 2004 with an undergraduate degree in aerospace engineering and is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Guelph. METRO OTTAWA

Running festival still seeking title sponsor

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Warming temperatures are bringing area runners out in droves as tens of thousands of local athletes prepare for Ottawa's annual running festival, but there will be a slightly different look to this year's events.

MDS Nordion is once again sponsoring the five-kilometre and 10-km events, but after five years, ING, will not continue as title sponsor for the Ottawa Marathon and half-marathon in May.

And so far no other company has stepped in to take its place.

Ottawa Race Weekend general manager Jim Robinson said they are no longer looking for someone to come in this year, but interested sponsors should take the opportunity this year to witness the event to see how it could fit.

"We know we have a world-class event. It's just a matter of finding the right fit and the right company," he said. "It will happen. It's just going to take some time."

But naming rights don't come cheap, especially for the largest event of its kind in Canada.

For the 35th anniversary of the marathon, Robinson said the race is projected to easily reach organizers' goal of 35,000 participants.

Robinson said they are looking for a sponsor who could commit to a three-year deal that would reach into six figures.

The sponsor would also have to be a good fit with the race.

Robinson said cigarette companies are a non-starter and beer companies may be a tough sell, although Robinson said Labatt's used to sponsor races years ago.

Races from Hamburg, Germany, to Austin, Texas, have also recently lost title sponsorship.

Spring **Packing up winter**

JESSICA PERREAULT/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Spring is in the air as Hector Dimillo takes down the lights that decorated Confederation Park all winter long yesterday. And that means summer is just around the corner.

Mom among new police grads

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Const. Wendy Marcuccio, a 34-year-old mother of two, became one of the newest officers with the Ottawa Police Service during a graduation ceremony for 26 new members yesterday.

Wendy Marcuccio wanted to be a police officer her entire life.

Last April, while working in a treatment centre for autistic children, the 34-year -old mother of two applied to be an officer with the Ottawa Police Service.

She was hired by July.

"It was a huge career change. Every day, I can't believe this is what I'm doing," she said. "There were second thoughts the whole way. I thought, I'm a mother, I'm a wife, I'm 34, can I do this now? But my husband and my family just said 'if you don't do this now, you'll never do it.'"

As it turns out, Marcuccio fit right in with the rest of her recruit class. She said there were many parents and several older recruits among the 26 newest members of the Ottawa Police Service, who officially graduated yesterday.

Chief Vern White welcomed the new officers to the service during the ceremony yesterday, telling them they are taking on an enormous responsibility that has no parallel in public society.

"When people are in their greatest times of need, when they are most vulnerable, when they are looking for safety and support, we will be there," he said.

Everyday, wearing the uniform will bring very rewarding moments and very challenging times, but the new recruits must always remember their pride in the uniform and the badge, said Const. Steve Boucher, president of the Ottawa Police Association.

News in brief

OC TRANSPO The City of Ottawa and the transit driver's union have agreed on scheduling rules that will last until the end of binding arbitration, CBC News Online reports.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video The only Mountie to check vital signs of Robert Dziekanski had not been first-aid certified in five years, at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Hollywood Rants ponders the puzzling longevity of Nicolas Cage's career.

Lotteries

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Haw named CEO of OCRI
The Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation announced yesterday it has selected Claude Haw as the president and CEO of the economic development agency. METRO OTTAWA

Local student chosen to attend G20 summit

JESSICA PERREAULT
for Metro Ottawa

One Ottawa student hopes to change the world at the G20 summit on April 1 and 2 in London, England.

Lisgar Collegiate Institute student Sofia Hou, 17, will represent Canada as part of a group of 20 youth representatives from around the world.

Hou will meet G20 leaders to discuss the current financial crisis and its impact both globally and nationally.

Nominated by the British Council through their Global Changemakers initiative after she attended the Guilford Forum in January, Hou hopes the summit will allow her to be a voice for youth all over the country.

"I'm going to bring back views from all over the world as well as sort of a global perspective," said Hou.

"Even (my friends) are giving me their views to bring as well."

Sofia Hou

With a life-changing opportunity, however, comes a huge weight on her shoulders.

"As much as it's an amazing experience, I'm representing the youth of Canada. It's a huge responsibility," she said.

Hou will graduate from Lisgar Collegiate this year and plans to pursue an education in finance, economics and international affairs. She leaves Saturday for London where she will spend four days with financial experts and policymakers to prepare for the summit.

Ottawa looking for business help

BUDGET The Ottawa Chamber of Commerce is calling for an initiative to provide small business loan funds for businesses suffering under the current global credit crunch.

In addition, the chamber is asking the province to eliminate the capital tax on companies and harmonize the sales tax when it releases the provincial budget tomorrow.

"This will be the most important budget that Ontario has seen in a decade," said OCC executive director Erin Kelly.

"It's very important that we see initiatives that will trickle down quickly to small businesses. The small business loan fund and infrastructure spending are just two ways to ensure this. We're ready to work with all levels of government to make sure this money trickles down quickly." METRO OTTAWA

Correction

A stock photo that ran with a story about the cooking school Le Cordon Bleu was not of the school itself. Information in the cutline suggested otherwise.

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Galloway battle headed to court

A Toronto lawyer said yesterday that she will file an application to review the decision to bar British MP George Galloway from entering Canada. Galloway was barred from Canada based on allegations he funded Hamas when he recently led an aid convoy into Gaza. Hamas is a banned terrorist group in Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada

Snowbirds to fly until 2020?

Canadian pilots of the iconic Snowbird acrobatic air team could be put at unnecessary risk if the famed planes are pushed another 10 years beyond their lifespan, Defence Minister Peter MacKay has been warned. Documents obtained by The Toronto Star show senior defence officials have asked MacKay to approve a plan that would see the CT114 Tutor jets perform through to 2020. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Friends and clothes

Swishing parties all the rage in economic downturn

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

If you find yourself invited to a swishing party, don't expect to be going home with anybody's husband.

But you might just go home with someone's jeans.

The term swishing, coined in the U.K. in 2007 by Futerra, a sustainability communications agency, is used to describe clothes-swapping parties which are all the rage as the economic downturn wears on.

Technically, to "swish" means to rustle, as in silk.

But in this context, it means to rustle clothes from friends says Lucy Shea, founder of Swishing.org and director at Futerra Sustainability Communications.

Riding the Recession

Michelle Balcers, a Toronto resident, says clothes-swapping fêtes are a great way to freshen up your wardrobe without opening your wallet.

The 39-year-old is far ahead of her time on the trend: She said she's been hosting clothes-swapping events since her university days.

"We would have informal swaps in apartments and dorm rooms," she said.

These days Balcers is involved in hosting or attending at least two clothes-swaps per year and said they usually involve generous amounts of wine, some sort of potluck-food arrangement and, of course, bags full of clothes.

Leigh-Ann Ingram has attended many of Balcers' swapping parties and said swappers can really luck out sometimes.

She brought an almost new, designer coat to one event that just didn't fit her properly, but fit one of the swappers like a glove.

"She walked away feeling very pleased with herself," she said.

For details on how to organize your own swishing party visit www.swishing.org.

Local clothes-swap party events are posted on websites such as Facebook.

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Flood of EI claims overwhelms staff

LABOUR Employment insurance claims jumped by almost 24,000 in January, a spike that has sent the Conservative government scrambling to hire more staff to handle the flood of claims.

Diane Finley

"We are doing everything we can to process the increasing number of claims in as efficient and timely a manner as possible," Human Resources Minister Diane Finley told reporters yesterday.

Statistics Canada reported yesterday that 560,400 people were getting EI benefits in January, a jump of 104,000, or 22.8 per cent, since the most recent low recorded in February 2008. More than half of that increase occurred in Ontario, the federal agency reported.

"Thousands more Canadians are losing their jobs and are not able to claim EI, even though they paid into the system. The government is trying to patch EI with duct tape while evading the real issue, which is eligibility," Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said in the Commons. "Will the government adjust the eligibility requirements so that all Canadians, wherever they live, can claim EI when they need it?" he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper defended his government's record, saying it has already made improvements to employment insurance to cope with worsening job losses.

"Eligibility for EI is determined by the region in which one lives, according to a formula. As, obviously, employment conditions become more difficult, eligibility becomes easier," Harper said.

In the Jan. 27 budget, the government extended EI benefits for those who are eligible by five weeks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Most mothers happy with their maternity experience, survey finds

HEALTH The majority of Canadian women are happy with their experiences during pregnancy, childbirth and the early months of motherhood, even though most are not breastfeeding long enough and too many are being electronically monitored during labour, according to the first nationwide survey of new mothers.

"Most women have a positive experience in labour and birth. This is a credit to the women, their families and their health-care providers," Dr. Catherine McCourt, director of health surveillance and epidemiology with the Public Health Agency of Canada, said yesterday.

But the survey, which involved 45-minute interviews with 6,421 women, also found that a significant number are continuing with practices that are not recommended by medical experts. For example, only 14 per cent of new moms are exclusively breastfeeding their babies at age six months, as the health agency recommends.

Though 90 per cent of mothers started out exclusively breastfeeding their newborns, 21 per cent had introduced formula or water within the first week, a number that rose to 86 per cent by six months.

Rachel Khan's goal is to breastfeed exclusively, but that hasn't been easy.

"I'm having difficulty with breast feeding. It took a couple of days to get the milk. Zak was born Tuesday and the milk didn't come until Friday," said Khan, 36, who gave birth on March 3.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TARA WALTON / TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rachel Khan, 36, of Toronto holds her newborn son Zak at a breastfeeding clinic. Zak was born on March 3.

Enhanced driver's licences bring privacy worries

SECURITY Civil liberties groups concerned about privacy want a moratorium on enhanced driver's licences until the federal government debates their merit.

The licences have radio-frequency identification chips containing a unique number that allows border officials to access personal information such as birth date and citizenship. They can be scanned from several metres away and they also have biometric capabilities such as facial-recognition technology.

"Enhanced driver's licences will not make us safer from terrorism, they will not ease traffic flow at the border, but they will create significant privacy concerns related to flawed technology," Roch Tassé, national co-ordinator of the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group, told a news conference yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HACKER An employee of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has been dismissed after an alleged attempt to hack into an Ontario Liberal party website that has since sparked a police investigation. Interim leader Bob Runciman said the unnamed staffer, who worked for the Conservative caucus in Toronto, was dismissed in February after the party learned of the allegations of "interference" with the website. CBC NEWS ONLINE

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Woman cuffs herself to sleeping husband
An American handcuffed herself to her sleeping husband in an apparent attempt to resolve an argument, but police charged her with assault and other crimes, authorities said. REUTERS

5

World

Obama takes case to American public

U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday his administration was confronting the economic crisis on all fronts and seeing signs of progress as he sought to reassure recession-weary Americans about his recovery strategy.

Obama

"We will recover from this recession. But it will take time, it will take patience," he said in the opening statement of his second prime-time White House news conference since he he took office on Jan. 20.

Knocked off stride by public anger over hefty corporate bonuses and facing skepticism about his massive budget plan, Obama moved to regain his political footing and refocus attention on his broader economic agenda.

He made his case to the American people the same day he pressed for co-ordinated action among the world's major economies, and just a day after unveiling a trillion-dollar plan to soak up toxic bank assets at the root of the global financial meltdown.

Obama took the podium after U.S. stocks slid while investors paused to reassess the government's latest effort to clean up bank balance sheets. Initial euphoria over the plan had driven stocks higher Monday.

Brushing aside any doubts, Obama said, "We've put in place a comprehensive strategy designed to attack this crisis on all fronts." REUTERS

Push for power

- Obama said that he believes there will be broad support among the public and Congress for his proposal to give the U.S. Treasury the authority to wind down large failing financial firms, such as American International Group.

News in brief

SEX An Italian man denied yesterday accusations that he filmed secret sex videos used in the attempted blackmail of the heiress to the BMW car empire. Ernano Barretta said one million euros found in his country home in Italy were his "life savings" and not blackmail money. REUTERS

Requests for asylum climbing

REFUGEES An estimated 383,000 asylum seekers lodged applications to stay in the West in 2008, a 12 per cent rise on 2007 as more Somalis and Afghans fled fighting in their homelands, the United Nations said yesterday.

Refugees from Iraq and elsewhere are now seeking permanent shelter in a wider variety of destinations, possibly because traditional countries of asylum such as Sweden have adopted stricter policies, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Tories putting cork in democracy

TheWestView

The federal Tories — and to a lesser degree the Liberals — are having a little trouble with the idea of democracy.

I don't blame them. No one has ever come up with the perfect democracy. Our first-past-the-post system is kind of a blunt instrument. It doesn't matter if your candidate gets a pile of votes … unless they come first, they're not elected.

There's a growing movement for proportional representation, in which a certain percentage of the vote yields a number of elected candidates, which works fine unless the Wing Nut Party gets 20 per cent of the vote, and you end up with 20 MPs with red noses and big shoes.

Nowhere is democracy more scary and raw than at the constituency level. Want your candidate to get nominated? All you have to do is go around and sign up members, and if you can get enough of them to the nomination meeting, and they vote for your candidate, voila, your candidate is representing the Tories, the Liberals, the NDP, the Greens, etc.

Grassroots democracy. It's a thing of beauty. Of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And the process is so open and free that upsets happen. Not only that, the system is open to abuse and manipulation. We've all heard stories of one-issue candidates busing in the faithful, packing meetings, and overwhelming the incumbent with a show of force. Too bad — that's democracy, Jack.

Well, the Tories are going to put a cork in democracy by implementing new rules that favour incumbents. If you are one of the 143 who managed to get elected last time, you'll be sitting pretty; you will be acclaimed as your riding's candidate unless two-thirds of the members want an open nomination.

Granted, the party will send the reforms to a vote, and anyone who was a Tory member as of March 10 will be eligible. But it's the principle of the thing … accountability is a cornerstone of democracy, and if MPs aren't accountable to members of their own riding associations, the people who recruited and nominated them in the first place, they will end up being more accountable to the Boss, the Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper, as if he doesn't already have enough power over his merry band.

The Tories aren't the only ones offering their MPs a measure of protection. If Michael Ignatieff's 77 Liberals want to be protected from nomination battles they will have to meet membership and donations standards that should be pretty easy to hit: 400 members and 40 "Victory Fund" donors who give $10 a month. The NDP is the last bastion of free and open nomination battles among the Big Three: No protection — period — for its no doubt uneasy 37 MPs.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Do you think the federal government's proposal to phase out incandescent light bulbs and promote CFL bulbs is actually a bright idea?

Evan Gillmore
age 16, Ottawa
A: It depends on the person. Are you lazy enough that you don't care, or are you lazy enough that you just buy a different bulb at the store?

Cheryl Elliott
age n/a, Ottawa
A: Yes, it's a good idea. We have a lot of new ones now in the house. The only problem is how long they take to go on sometimes.

Sam Gillmore
age 18, Ottawa
A: I think it's up to people on their own. It won't make that much of a difference if it's just here and there.

Anna Labetski
age 18, Toronto
A: It's about time. I think it's a good idea, but it's really behind. It's trying to send a message, but Europe did this a long time ago.

Carman Fox
age 26, Calgary
A: It's green, but I don't think it should be a high priority right now.

Katee Taylor
age 20, Antigonish, N.S.
A: Yes, I do because I believe it will actually force people to take that extra step, which isn't really that hard of a step to take.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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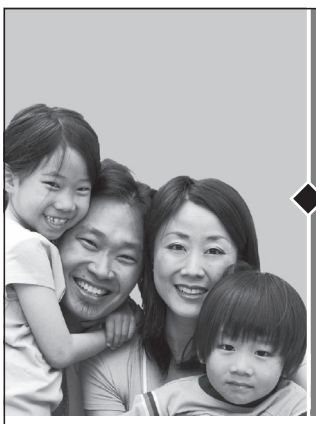
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Berlusconi asks Italy to work harder
Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday Italy was well placed to emerge from the global economic downturn but he urged his countrymen to work harder. REUTERS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bankruptcies rise

Consumers struggling but businesses OK

In yet another sign that the recession is bearing down, the number of Canadian consumers filing for bankruptcy rose sharply in January.

At the same time, the number of businesses across the country filing for bankruptcy fell slightly when compared to January 2008, according to figures released yesterday by the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada.

There were 8,392 bankruptcies in January, up 19 per cent when compared to January 2008.

Of those, 7,944 were filed by consumers, almost 22 per cent more than a year earlier.

Overall, businesses filed 448 bankruptcies, nearly 15 per cent fewer than a year ago. The decline seems to reflect that this recession was not caused by higher interest rates, and corporations and businesses were mostly in good shape just prior to it setting in, said Doug Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EI claims

- The number of people receiving Employment Insurance benefits rose to 560,400 in January, up 4.4 per cent from December, according to Statistics Canada.

Business in brief

OIL Suncor Energy Inc. and Petro-Canada have agreed in their takeover accord to try to get the government to repeal a federal law that limits how big a stake in Petro-Canada a single shareholder can own.

AIG Fifteen of 20 AIG leading bonus recipients have agreed to give them back in full, said New York's top legal officer, who is probing $165 million US in executive pay at the troubled company. REUTERS

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Robinho threatens Pele with legal action

Brazil soccer star Robinho threatened Pele with legal action yesterday over the soccer legend's suggestion that he had a drug problem. The Manchester City forward is angry at Pele's comments last week to a Brazilian radio station that Robinho and Ronaldo had both had substance abuse issues. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Clijsters to ask for wild card?

Sources say former world No. 1 tennis player Kim Clijsters has asked the U.S. Open about receiving a wild card for this year's tournament as part of her comeback plans. The 25-year-old Belgian says she will announce her 2009 plans at a news conference tomorrow. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 3 Washington 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 2 Minnesota 1
Montreal 6 Atlanta 3
Tampa Bay 2 Columbus 1 (OT)
Anaheim at Nashville
Los Angeles at St. Louis
Vancouver at Dallas
Detroit at Edmonton

Bosh says he will take responsibility

Amid unproven allegations he's denied a former girlfriend financial support for a months-old daughter the woman says he fathered, Chris Bosh came out in defence of his character and vowed to handle his parental duties.

The Toronto Raptors all-star forward, who turned 25 yesterday, refused comments on the specifics of a lawsuit filed by a former lover but said he would honour any commitments.

Bosh

"All I can say is that I'm going to take care of my responsibilities like I've been doing in the past and in the future and keep respecting everyone," Bosh told a throng of reporters yesterday.

"I love my daughter, I love myself and I respect her mother and I'll leave it at that."

In court papers filed in her native Maryland, Allison Mathis has accused Bosh of abandoning her and her unborn child when she was seven months pregnant and denying her financial support, even when she became ill late in the pregnancy.

The suit, which has not been proven in court, asks for unspecified child support and sole custody of Trinity Meyers Mathis, now just over four months old.

"I hope everybody respects my wishes to keep it quiet," Bosh said.

He said he's unconcerned about any damage to his legacy.

"It's not a disappointment," he told a throng of reporters.

"Contrary to what some people say I know that I have a positive outlook on everything, I respect everyone and things have always been good for me. People closest to me don't call it into question.

"They know the situation, they know what it is. That's all that really matters." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Morace's goals within reach

DUANE ROLLINS
for Metro Canada

When Carolina Morace took over the head coaching position of the Canadian women's soccer team she knew she saw a lot of promise. But, she also knew she was in for a lot of work.

"It's a challenge," she said. "That's why I took the job — for the challenge."

Morace was in Toronto yesterday to promote her home coaching debut, which will take place May 25 against Japan at BMO Field. She said that it's her goal to make the women the "No. 1 team" for Canadians.

The game should sell itself, she suggested.

"I started following soccer by watching TV and I enjoyed the movement of the game," she said.

Morace

"People love players like Cristiano Ronaldo or (Lionel) Messi. They are attracted to them because they are technical players. They are creative. I think we can teach some of that movement, but we need people (in Canada) to love the game."

According to Morace, Canada started to play that kind of technical game at the recent Cyprus Cup, where it finished with the silver medal, losing 3-1 to England in the final.

"The girls are already playing the new way," Morace said through an interpreter.

"There are no more long balls. The ball is at their feet."

In addition to the May 25 game, Morace said that the team is planning to play a two game series with the United States and a tournament in Mexico this summer.

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Rebuilding Iraq
Iraq is banking on tourism as a sector that will help it rebuild after years of bloodshed and rife kidnapping drove Westerners away. The country already attracts thousands of religious tourists. REUTERS

Travel

The world's economic slowdown has reduced your odds of losing a bag the next time you fly, an industry group says.

REUTERS

Here's why
New fees to encourage passengers to travel with less and lighter baggage have also reduced the number of bags being loaded onto the wrong flights and conveyer belts.

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

An island rises out of the ashes

DAVID WHITLEY
for Metro Canada

Gingerbread Hill would have to be one of the strangest guesthouses on the planet.

It's tucked down the hill off a little side road branching out from Montserrat's main thoroughfare; goats amble across the driveway with impunity and the early morning wake-up call comes courtesy of the cockerels. A gate leads to a rough pathway leading up to a cemetery, and from that gate there is a spectacular view of the hillsides, gullies and the Caribbean Sea.

It doesn't seem so much a guesthouse as a family home in the countryside, and that alone is enough to make for an experience far removed from the stereotypical Caribbean vacation. But this guesthouse also happens to be the best place to immerse yourself in the spectacular, terrifying story of the 1995 volcanic eruption that doused much of the island.

Gingerbread Hill is run by the Lea family — or the FamiLea, as they like to call themselves. They're American refugees, having decided to leave home when their favourite hippie haunts such as Boulder and Key West started yuppifying.

As they tell it, they wanted to live someplace their children could "grow up a little slower, have a treehouse and a rope swing" and they could "pick fruit off the trees."

David and Clover originally came out to the island as missionaries, but cut the church ties early. David worked as the prison chaplain, ran a youth centre and embarked on a television career selling feel-good programs across the Caribbean. Meanwhile, they gradually did up their house in what was — at the time — the middle of nowhere.

And then the Soufriere Hills volcano erupted. The southern part of the island was evacuated, scientists and media crews arrived in droves, and the Leas were asked if they could help out by putting someone up. They did, and that was the beginning of their guesthouse. There are now four accommodation options, ranging from a surprisingly well equipped backpacker room to a fantastic suite with full kitchen and rooftop sundeck.

What's more, the family members are more than happy to talk about the island's experiences, and will even organize tours to spots within the exclusion zone if you wish to go behind enemy lines and see spectacular valleys of pure ash and mud.

Montserrat is slowly getting back on its feet, although the volcano is still highly active. For the visitor, there's the chance to see things that cannot be seen anywhere else on earth.

The views of the buried capital, Plymouth, from either the hilltops or on a boat from the sea are genuinely extraordinary — it is almost entirely buried, aside from a few rooftops sticking out above the debris. The island's real asset, however, is its village-like atmosphere. Everyone knows everyone, and newcomers are welcomed in instantly. Drop by at a local bar for a beer, and you'll be caught up in conversation or a game of dominos in no time.

It's an attitude that Gingerbread Hill typifies. It's nothing like the standard Caribbean beach resort, and it's all the better for it. Montserrat is something completely, brilliantly different.

DAVID WHITLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

Soufriere Hills volcano, seen from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, erupted in 1995. At right, the expansive view from the grounds of Gingerbread Hill.

Getting there

- To get to Montserrat, you need to get a flight with WinAir, fly-winair.com, from nearby Sint Maarten or Antigua.
- Rooms at Gingerbread Hill, volcano-island.com, start at $45 US a night for the backpacker special. The Heavenly Suite costs $125 a night.

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Magna off to greener pastures

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Perhaps the most amazing thing about modern vehicle assembly is that there's really very little of the vehicle itself manufactured by the manufacturer. For example, when the Ford Model T was introduced in 1908, everything on the car was produced at one of Ford's factories. Even the steel for the body and engine was smelted on site.

Today, it's the suppliers on whom the auto industry is built upon; everything from sparkplugs to seats comes straight from a supplier.

It makes sense for automakers to purchase these parts from elsewhere, especially when there are huge quality improvements and cost savings involved; if a power-window switch can be made for less money and last longer, that's a win-win in anyone's books.

But what happens when a supplier decides it wants to build a car? That's been the case for Aurora, Ont.-based Magna International, one of the world's largest automotive suppliers.

EarthHour

Magna is edging closer to the role of not only of automaker, but an environmentally conscious one at that. This Canadian corporation is aiming to become the world's leader in electric cars.

Canada's Magna unveiled the Mila EV concept at the recent Geneva auto show.

While there's plenty of green growing from Canadian soil with companies like ZENN and Electrovaya going for the low-speed electric market, Magna's aiming for higher ground, and its size gives it advantages that the others can only dream of.

Announced at January's Detroit auto show, the first signal was a partnership with Ford, which both companies hope will culminate in a brand-new battery-electric vehicle (BEV) by 2011.

Ted Robertson, chief technical officer and executive vice-president of new product creation for Magna, explained that the deal took over two years to put together, and that Magna will be responsible for supplying the "BEV electric traction motor, transmission, motor controller, energy storage system [batteries], battery charger and related systems. Magna will also share in the engineering responsibility to integrate the electric propulsion system and other new systems into the vehicle platform architecture."

Magna and Ford have joined forces to build a brand new platform for battery-electric vehicles.

"Magna is a world-class automotive supplier that's an ideal partner for our BEV," said Nancy Gioia, Ford's director of sustainable mobility technology.

The next step came when Magna showed off its Mila EV concept car at the Geneva Auto Show recently.

Robertson is quick to point out that they're still two separate programs, and that the Mila could potentially be "sold" to another automaker.

"Without getting into specifics, we can say that the Mila EV does provide a preview of some technologies that could ultimately be used in the Ford BEV. Both projects make use of multiple Magna operating groups, and we share the synergies and lessons learned that go along with the collaborative efforts. While the Mila is a concept vehicle and the Ford BEV is scheduled for production in 2011, it's of great value to Magna to be able to learn from both projects and share the experiences amongst our global teams."

Robertson explains that Magna's "green" strategy includes "developing components and systems for hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles and battery electric vehicles."

Magna is also aiming to "reduce vehicle mass through lighter-weight components and source recycled/recyclable materials. We are actively addressing the need for immediate fuel-efficiency requirements as well as balancing the longer-term environmental goals," Robertson added.

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

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Johnson on Quest for role

Dwayne Johnson insists there is "no one else" who can take on the part he wants in The Adventures of Jonny Quest, The wrestler-turned-actor is desperate to land the role of special agent Roger (Race) Bannon in the live-action adaptation. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Letterman & wife

And the No. 1 thing to do in Montana: Get married. David Letterman said Monday that he married longtime girlfriend Regina Lasko, before a justice of the peace March 19 in Choteau, Mont. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Enticed by spooky script

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

You might not think it to look at the Oscar-nominated actress, but Virginia Madsen is actually a big fan of scary movies. And there's a reason why.

"I'm attracted to ghost hunters and Bigfoot and UFO footage; all that stuff just absolutely fascinates me," admitted Madsen during a recent interview in Vancouver. "I'm just naturally attracted to it. With cellphones and iPhones and all of our new gadgets, I think pretty soon, you're not going to be able to deny that it exists."

Well, whether or not you believe in aliens or the Sasquatch or haunted houses, there's no denying the Sideways star's unequivocal dedication to trying to track down a good ghost story. Madsen insists her latest thriller, The Haunting in Connecticut (which opens in theatres this Friday), was the first truly spooky script she had read in 10 years.

"By page three or four, I was invested in the mother and son," said Madsen, who is a mother to a teenaged son herself. "A lot of times, they don't give (characters) a lot of time in a horror film (to develop) so I just loved the script."

The script in question examines a series of horrific events that encounter a family struggling not only with their ailing child, but with an old Victorian home that unleashes a paranormal terror upon its new residents. Based on a real story that producer Andrew Trapani first discovered in 2003, The Haunting in Connecticut is only heightened by its powerful authenticity.

"That's what attracted me to the project," said co-star Amanda Crew (Sex Drive). "It's one of those horror stories that I always like because, not only is it realistic, but you know that it's actually happened."

"The story becomes more frightening when you're invested in the people," added Madsen. "When you're dealing with things that might be under your bed or might be in the mirror or maybe could be in your house, of course it plays on our deepest childhood fears so it's really going to get you on a deeper level."

ALLEN FRASER

Virginia Madsen stars as Sara in The Haunting in Connecticut.

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metro

Pumpkins stay together
Smashing Pumpkins will continue without Jimmy Chamberlin. Frontman Billy Corgan insists the group intends to go forward with its plans to tour. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

The runway shuffle

Two Project contestants return, two others get eliminated

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Last night's Project Runway Canada episode was a double-shocker as two previously eliminated designers came back and two more got sent home.

The contestants were dragged out to a camping ground where designers Jason Meyers and Genevieve Graham, who had already been cut in previous episodes, crawled out of tents to reveal that they had been reinstated on the show, with a catch: They had to win the next challenge or get sent home again.

Designers were split into teams of two and asked to use camping gear like tents, sleeping bags and backpacks to create one avant-garde design and one ready-to-wear dress.

Calgary designer Adejoke Taiwo and Vancouver designer Kim Cathers teamed up but got cut despite judges calling Taiwo's sleek and sexy dress her best work on the show.

The soft-spoken Taiwo, 25, says the competition was stressful but despite the hardship she's glad she did it, though getting sent home on what the judges themselves said was her best design yet was painful.

"I did the best job I could on every single challenge. If (the judges) don't want to see me flourish, that's their loss," Taiwo said.

She says she's happy that she didn't bomb out in any of the design challenges and kept to her unique style throughout the competition. "Before I went, I just thought, 'I don't want to design anything too ugly!' I feel like my designs stood out from the others," she said.

Adejoke Taiwo

Cathers, 29, seldom shied away from expressing her abrasive opinions about the other designers, though she now wishes she had voiced her frustrations less openly, at least on-camera.

"Obviously I'm the bitch on the show. In retrospect, maybe I could have kept the sharp tongue under wraps more," Cathers said.

She doesn't feel the show portrayed her unfairly, although she does wish her softer side could have gotten more screen time.

"I did act quite abrasively, but they didn't show all the laughing, all the jokes," Cathers said.

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/25/09	265	353	2	TVO	Flying Home		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Marking Time (N)		The View From Here "Carny"		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		Lie to Me (HDTV) (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)		Les Invincibles (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal et Les Nou		La Zone
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "He's Our You" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	American Idol (HDTV) (Live)				CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Stars on Ice		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Chopping Block (N)		Life "5 Quarts" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	117	713	10	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées "Poison lent" (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Loft Story	Drôle	Le Mur		Bob Gratton	Bob Gratton	Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Loft Story
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Docteur Akagi* ★★ (1998, Drame) Akira Emoto, Kumiko Aso.				La Forêt
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Survivor: Tocantins (N)		Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Chopping Block (N)		Nip/Tuck "Ricky Wells"		Murdoch Mysteries (N)		News (N)
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running in Heels		News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Scrubs	Better Off Ted	Lost "He's Our You" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News (N)
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	American Idol (HDTV) (Live)				News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Drum TV	Great Performances "King Lear" (HDTV) (N)						Charlie Rose
	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	American Idol (HDTV) (Live)				CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		I, Psychopath (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Billiards World Cup of Pool.		World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	410	403	52	SCR	NBA Basketball Milwaukee Bucks at Toronto Raptors. (Live)					Score Tonight		NBA Basketball: Jazz at Suns	
cable variety	411	457	56	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	59	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Where You At	Revival	Confessions of a Teen Idol		Confessions of a Teen Idol		Revival
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		UFC Fight Night				Ways to Die
	521	560	34	TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate
	145	761	35	TV5	Humanima	Mixeur	*Le Soleil au-dessus des nuages* (2000, Drame)			Rosa Rosa	Peur	Voyageur	Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	Big Love "Oh, Pioneers"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Deadliest Catch		Mayday "Dead Weight"		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	CMT's Greatest		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
	601	562	45	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Chop Shop	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Spider-Man* ★★★ (2002, Action) Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Play'd	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Call of Silence"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Call of Silence"		Sea Hunters
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies "Demi Moore"		Mythes urbains	Mythes urbains	Pris au piège (HDTV)		Belle danger	Belle danger	Vidéo
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Foot in Grave	Life & Times		Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out
	269	350	70	APTN	Canadian Geographic		James Houston: Interesting		APTN National News: Contact Post-secondary students.				Wings-Canada
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Restaurant

critics'corner

Stars on Ice
This figure skating special is an international affair, but Canada is well represented by newly minted world champion Jeffrey Buttle and four-time world champ Kurt Browning and 2002 Olympic gold medal-winning pair Jamie Sale and David Pelletier. Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen also shows her moves. 8 PM on 8 CBC

The Chopping Block
After receiving a Central Park guided tour on foods found in nature, each team has to create a dish in one hour for host Marco Pierre White. Later, the teams must incorporate what they have learned about natural foods into their evening service, utilizing only ingredients that could be found in Central Park, after which the teams are surprised to learn that every single diner scored their restaurant with a Zagat rating form. Jim and Nina Zagat guest star. 8 PM on 15 CITY 9 NBC

Kenya'sStyle

Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

GaGa for John Lennon

Lady GaGa wishes she was alive in the '60s, saying: "I might be arguing with Yoko Ono and trying to win John Lennon's heart and chasing The Beatles in a bus on LSD, hoping that one of them hands me a microphone one day." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

I didn't cheat: Jesus

PEOPLE Madonna's boyfriend insists he didn't cheat on her — because his mother was watching him, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Jesus Luz has blasted reports he kissed lingerie model Luciana Costa, 31, at a party in his native Brazil earlier this month.

"I danced with her, but I danced with everyone at the party," he said. "My mother was at my side at the party and never would I become intimate with a woman if my mother was nearby — even if I was interested in that person."

The 22-year-old model also refused to comment on his romance with Madonna — who, at 50, is 14 years older than his mother.

He added: "Even if it is true that I am with her, I would never reveal these details."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Was Twitter final straw for Jen?

BREAKUP Here's another theory as to why Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer called it quits: She dumped him because he's addicted to Twitter.

Sources tells Star magazine Aniston was furious that the singer would claim he didn't have time for her but spent time on the site.

"She was like, 'He has time for all this Twittering, but he can't send me a text, an email, make a call?' He didn't deny it," a source tells the magazine. "He knew he was avoiding her. So when she ended things, he just said OK, and he was sorry it didn't work out."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

LeAnn, hubby put on a show

PEOPLE LeAnn Rimes kissed husband Dean Sheremet, and he put his arm around her in front of the paparazzi in L.A. on Monday — days after Us Weekly released a video and photos that, Us argues, show Rimes was having an affair with her TV movie co-star Eddie Cibrian.

While Rimes has acknowledged she and Sheremet are going through "a difficult time," she has not denied a relationship with Cibrian.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Limelight affects Lindsay

PEOPLE Make no mistake; all that time in the unsolicited spotlight hasn't left Lindsay Lohan unscathed, eonline.com reports.

The frequently hounded star has spoken out exclusively to E! News, relaying that the incessant public speculation over the status of her sobriety, the healthiness of her bank account and, perhaps most of all, her relationship with Samantha Ronson has indeed taken a toll.

"They need to stop saying we're fighting," she said of the media's fixation on the ups and downs of her love life with Ronson. "People telling lies about me to her and all this garbage. I'm really a good person and I have a good heart and just want to work and the only reason I go to clubs is to hear Samantha spin or be normal."

Lohan urges people not to believe everything they read.

"I don't drink, I don't do drugs and I don't lie," she said. "I love to act and write and be creative and I want to help people by playing characters that can send a positive message out to whomever may need it." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jacko's Harry Potter fanaticism

PEOPLE Michael Jackson has invited stars of the Harry Potter films to the opening night of his This Is It shows, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The three main stars from the wizard franchise — Daniel Radcliffe, 19, Emma Watson, 18, and Rupert Grint, 20 — have reportedly been offered all-access passes for Jackson's farewell residency at London's O2 arena in July.

"Michael is a huge fan of the Harry Potter books and films," a source told Britain's The Sun newspaper. "He was utterly enchanted by the magic of J.K. Rowling's novels and owns all the movies and he has bought memorabilia for his collection."

Jackson is said to be such a Harry Potter fan, he owns a first edition copy of Rowling's debut novel Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, which is worth more than $20,000 US.

Around 750,000 tickets for Jackson's record-breaking 50 shows at the O2 arena sold out in a single morning earlier this month. Tickets are so sought after, superstar soccer player David Beckham has reportedly even resorted to phoning up and using his status to ask for passes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna rebounds with Wilmer?

RELATIONSHIP Looking to put some distance between her and Chris Brown, Rihanna reportedly got friendly with Wilmer Valderrama at his weekly karaoke night at Geisha House in Hollywood recently, according to the Daily Mirror.

"They were chatting and laughing for ages," a source tells the newspaper.

"They looked pretty cozy and relaxed in each other's company. Wilmer was all charm and even had a bottle of champagne for Rihanna."

Valderrama has previously dated Lindsay Lohan, Ashlee Simpson and Paris Hilton.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Gisele and Tom's wedding, part 2

MARRIAGE After quietly marrying on a Thursday in February, Tom Brady and Gisele Bündchen are going to do it again — with a few more people on the guest list, people.com reports.

The newlyweds have invited friends, family, Brady's New England Patriots teammates and Bündchen's pals in the modeling world to Costa Rica for a dinner on Friday, April 3, followed by a Saturday renewal play wedding ceremony and reception, sources say.

The celebration, which sources say the couple have been planning for months, won't be as small as their surprise nuptials on Feb. 26 in Santa Monica, Calif., featuring Brady's son and few other guests — but it will still be "an intimate affair," a source adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No laughs over Britney fat jokes

PEOPLE Britney Spears' confidence is reportedly being shaken by criticism about her figure. According to Heat magazine, some have been calling her "Bulky Spears" and "jelly belly," and the jibes aren't sitting well with her.

"Britney has been upset by some of the negative feedback she's been getting," a source tells the magazine. "She's worked so hard on her figure and her fitness.

"She thought she was an unstoppable force, but now it's dawning on her that she's not as revered as she once was, which is causing her upset."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Stop the stalking, David pleads

PEOPLE Fame has gotten ugly for American Idol David Cook, who pleaded for privacy while on tour, people.com reports.

"The efforts by some fans to find our hotel rooms, call our hotel rooms, attach things to our bus, etc., is something I have to condemn," he says on his MySpace blog under the heading "Attention."

"Should this behavior continue, the only thing we can do is take more preventative measures to maintain our privacy, which in turn makes us less accessible to you."

He concludes: "I hope this doesn't come off as harsh. I merely want to nip this in the bud so we can continue to have a great experience with all of you at the shows we have coming up."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

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Thursday Variable 8° / 2°
Friday Showers 80% 10° / 1°
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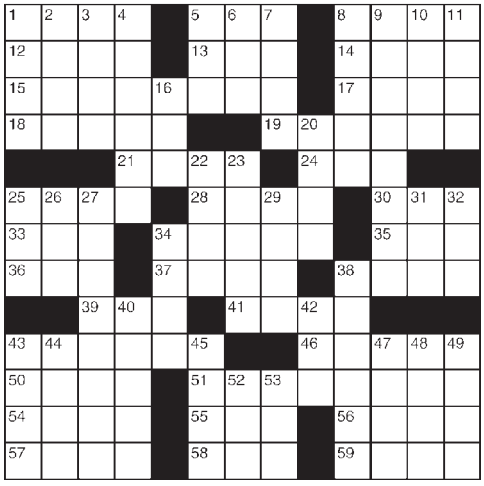
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Tackles weeds
5 Miss Piggy's pronoun
8 Rough journey
12 Piedmont wine region
13 Curved line
14 Trumpet
15 St. Patrick's Day emblem
17 Dermatology subject
18 McCain's running mate
19 Northerner
21 Settle down
24 Kitten's call
25 Judicial raiment
28 Creme-filled cookie
30 Shade source
33 Actress Mendes
34 Dress
35 Meadow
36 Quarterback Marino
37 Uplifting melody
38 With "down," drop suddenly
39 Mauna —
41 Places
43 Unexpected
46 Bonfire residue
50 Indigent
51 Attendance check
54 Missile shelter
55 Rage
56 Otherwise
57 Building extensions
58 Kimono closer
59 Cabbage salad

Crossword down

1 Padlocked fastener
2 Job-safety org.
3 And others (Lat.)
4 "Hard as nails," for one
5 Chinese chairman
6 Killer whale
7 Gross
8 Scottish feudal lord
9 "Saturday Evening Post" artist
10 Sea eagle
11 Last word of "Oh! Susanna"
16 Genetic abbr.
20 Wild and crazy
22 Sushi wrapper
23 Whimsically witty
25 Roulette bet
26 Eggs
27 Wad
29 Outside (Pref.)
31 Writer Buscaglia
32 Treasure seeker's aid
34 Envelope feature
38 Early March baby
40 Marks' replacements
42 Western st.
43 Church area
44 Seethe
45 Small combo
47 Corridor
48 "Born Free" lioness
49 Passel
52 Scepter topper
53 Mainlander's memento

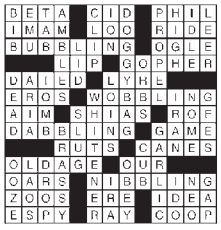
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

7				5				8
6		9		8		1		3
		1	6		3	4		
9								4
			2		9			
5								1
		5	7		6	9		
2		3		9		6		5
4				3				7

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	3	6	5	4	2	7	1	9
2	5	4	9	1	7	6	8	3
9	1	7	8	3	6	4	2	5
7	4	1	6	5	9	8	3	2
5	6	8	3	2	4	9	7	1
3	9	2	1	7	8	5	6	4
1	2	9	7	6	5	3	4	8
4	7	5	2	8	3	1	9	6
6	8	3	4	9	1	2	5	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Classic Grilled Dover Sole

INGREDIENTS:

4 small Dover sole (about 1/4 lb/125 g each), cleaned and skinned
2 lbs (1 kg) new potatoes, scrubbed
1 large sprig fresh mint
1 tbsp (15 ml) unsalted butter
finely grated zest and juice of 1 large lemon
1 lb (500 g) baby leaf spinach
Freshly gated nutmeg (optional)
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh mint sprigs and lemon wedges to garnish

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler to high. Lay fish on top of foil-lined grill pan.
2. In large pot, cover potatoes with boiling water and add sprig of mint. Cook until potatoes are just tender, about 15 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, melt butter in small pot and mix in lemon zest and juice. Season with salt and pepper. Brush the lemon butter over the fish and broil until the flesh close to the bone flakes easily when pierced with a knife, 5¬–6 minutes.
4. While the fish is cooking, steam the spinach until just wilted, 2 minutes. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste.
5. Drain potatoes and put into warmed serving dish. Add plenty of black pepper, toss gently and garnish with mint sprigs. Transfer sole to warmed plates and spoon over cooking juices from pan. Add lemon wedges and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You've made an error in judgment. An executive doesn't speak your language. An odd couple talks about changing the world.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Keep track of an amusing competition. Money can be earned the easy way. Make a grab at a big and risky chance.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Cheer up by discussing the dating game. Remarkable pleasure creates a wild diversion. A flaky parent stumbles onto a solution.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A conversation eases the pain of unrequited love. An uncommon man shifts gears while debating. You will accomplish great things.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A prudish woman questions your preferences. A nearby object has a strange effect. A guilty person needs medical attention.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A project is suspended by a worried person. The wrong guy is asked to make a job change. More adventures are coming soon.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Spiteful feelings make for an uncomfortable meeting. Your strategy is a controversial topic. Controlling your feelings leads to wonderful news.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A man has a chip on his shoulder. A friend faces a long-awaited response. Some errors are made in good faith.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A loved one's exhaustion will lift. A walk will do wonders for a caring person. Having second thoughts promises a fresh start.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
The arrival of a risk-taking friend causes confusion. Whiny people will avoid doing chores. Helping someone out will bring you a windfall.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Exhilarating prospects are notable for their thrills. An angry man is forced to have some fun. Some secrets are revealed due to a scandal.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A man talks of a viable scheme. You'll get frustrated while on the phone. Be yielding but keep your mind clear.

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GL with Sport Package shown

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2009 SONATA GL

Limited model shown

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2009 TUCSON L

Limited model shown

STARTING PRICE ~~$21,195~~

NEW SALE PRICE $17,995♦ WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

2009 SANTA FE 2.7L GL

Limited model shown

STARTING PRICE ~~$25,895~~

NEW SALE PRICE $21,995♦ WITH 0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 48 MOS.◊

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GL with Sport Package model shown

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

**The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦New sale prices are calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments are available on all 2009 Accent 3 Dr. L of $3,600/2009 Elantra L 5-speed of $3,850/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed of $4,000/2009 Tucson L 5-speed of $3,200/2009 Santa Fe GL 2.7L FWD 5-speed of $4,000. Prices for models shown (after deducting price adjustment). 2009 Accent GL Sport 5-speed of $14,395/2009 Elantra GL Sport Package 5-speed of $17,895/2009 Sonata Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Accent/2009 Elantra/2009 Sonata/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2009 Elantra Touring models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/0%/2.75% for 36/36/48/48/72 month terms. Financing example: 2009 Tucson L 5-speed for $17,995 (after deducting the price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $411.56 per month for 48 months for a total obligation of $19,755. Cash price is $17,995. Example price includes Delivery & Destination. Example price excludes registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes. ‡Starting price for model shown: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package 5-speed of $21,195. Price excludes Delivery and Destination charge of $1,495, applicable licence fees, insurance, registration and all taxes. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ♦‡†Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. †Elantra Touring best-in-class interior room based on Auto Data comparison of 124 vehicles in the compact class (according to AAMA). ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.